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Americans Decide to Press Plan for Anguilla Despite

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By HENRY GINIGER

Special to The New York Times

ST. THOMAS, Virgin Islands,

Aug. 27—A group of prominent advertising executives and newsmen in San Francisco has been promoting and financing the independence of the Caribbean island of Anguilla in order to allow an economics professor at the University of Puerto Rico to test his theories on the virtue of smallness.

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However, statements by Ronald Webster, leader of the 6,000 Anguillians, have caused doubts about the willingness of the islanders to follow the professor's theories.

After a conference today between Mr. Webster and the San Francisco group, the latter decided to go ahead with the campaign despite what they acknowledge to be uncertainty about the island's future and about its intentions. The group has already spent thousands of dollars of its own money and collected like amounts from a full-page advertisement in The New York Times of Aug. 14.

The professor is Leopold Kohr, an Austrian-born economist, who has devoted a lifetime to the theory that only in small, relatively self-sufficient economic units can people solve their problems and achieve a happy life.

Professor Kohr's development plan for Anguilla could, he contends, transform the island in five years into a flourishing economy that would owe nothing to anyone.

Agriculture First

His plan calls for a survey by experts of the island's agricultural possibilities, then the development of a "diversified, largely self-sufficient and partly directed agriculture."

This would require only local resources, whereas a tourist or industrial economy would have to be introduced from the outside.

Farms would be set up into viable economic units and "grouped into widening concentric rings around a series of 12 to 15 villages." The villages would engage in crafts, manufacture, commerce, education and government to meet the island's needs.

Small-scale tourism could come later, according to the plan, but it would be no bigger than necessary to absorb surplus food production. Tourism and the issuance of stamps and coins could give the island the foreign exchange it might want to bring in such amenities as electricity, plumbing, bicycles, movies, radios "and even a modest number of cars, preferably electric."

Dr. Kohr, a gentle, partly deaf man with a soft, persuasive manner of speaking, is an admirer of the simple life such as is led by the Pennsylvania Amish. He recommended simple transportation such as horses, carriages and bicycles, rather than automobiles, because cars, with spare parts, gasoline and

oil, would have to be imported under unfavorable terms of trade and suitable roads would have to be built with outside aid.

Professor Kohr's attention turned to Anguilla when the island seceded last May from a British-sponsored federation with St. Kitts and Nevis, about 110 miles to the south.

After seeking and failing to get a direct association with Britain or with the United States, Anguilla declared itself an independent republic in July.

Dr. Kohr abhors bigness because of the problems of loss of individual identity and others that they create. He said in an interview that Anguilla struck him as the perfect place to put his theories into practice, so he went there immediately to spread his gospel. There he met Peter Adams, the island's only experienced politician and its representative in the federal House of Assembly in St. Kitts.

He also witnessed what he described as a perfect example of direct democracy in action when the population gathered at the airport to reject compromise proposals to return to the federation.

When back in San Juan, Dr. Kohr alerted friends in San Francisco, who, he said, had become disciples of his theories as expounded in books, articles and lectures in Europe and the Western Hemisphere.

The friends include Howard Gossage of the San Francisco advertising firm of Freeman and Gossage; Scott Newhall, managing editor of The San Francisco Chronicle; and Dr. Bernard Feigen, a well-known surgeon and member of the board of Ramparts magazine.

Gathering in San Juan

There was a meeting in San Juan to set in motion a plan to help Anguilla financially to allow Dr. Kohr's development plan to go into effect. There is reason to believe that there was some United States Government interest in the project.

Mr. Adams came from Anguilla to meet the group. Dr. Kohr said he assumed that he had persuaded Mr. Adams of the soundness of the idea, because Mr. Adams asked Dr. Kohr to be his adviser.

However, after a Caribbean Commonwealth meeting last month in Barbados when Mr. Adams appeared to accept compromise proposals for the return to the federation with more local rule, he was overturned by the population. Mr. Webster, the island's wealthiest businessman and landholder, took over as leader of the island council and then later as interim president of the Republic of Anguilla.

The New York Times advertisement appeared over Mr. Webster's name although Mr. Gossage wrote it and showed it to Mr. Webster for approval. The ad rejected the notion that Anguilla should seek development through large tourist hotels and turn itself into a nation of busboys, waiters and servants.

The advertisement appealed for funds by offering to each contributor of \$100 an honorary citizenship of Anguilla with a passport to prove it. The passport would be necessary to come into Anguilla as a guest.

An interview with Mr. Webster last week at Anguilla made it clear that his ideas for the island did not conform to those

set out to move the advertisement. He said the island sought tourism as the principal way of making a living for a people that had grown tired of trying to get along on their poor soil and of doing without such facilities as electricity, telephone, a water system and good roads.

He also indicated that he disliked the idea of appearing to sell passports and citizenship. The interview created consternation among the San Francisco group and Dr. Kohr, who felt that his friends had been let down.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Gossage said the group had already spent \$2,000 of its money to promote the cause of Anguilla and that the money was being up as a result of the advertisement from well-meaning contributors in the United States.

Opposition

The ad said that a trust fund had been set up at the Chase Manhattan Bank in St. Thomas. But the Chase bank had refused to open the account, Mr. Gossage said. The group then opened an account at the Virgin Islands National Bank, which later changed its mind and closed it.

Meanwhile, mailed contributions have been accumulating in the St. Thomas post office and Mr. Gossage said none of it had been acknowledged.

Meeting in St. Thomas

Mr. Gossage and his associates came to St. Thomas and met with Mr. Webster and other Anguillians in a hotel room. Mr. Gossage said later that the campaign would proceed on the basis of the advertisement. He added he would drop it if at any time it appeared that the island was not taking an independent course as set forth in the advertisement.

To prepare for the meeting, Dr. Kohr went to the island Friday, carrying with him a mimeographed copy of his development plan.

Dr. Kohr also carried with him a battered briefcase bulging with copies of his books to show Mr. Webster that his intentions were honest and that his credentials were good.

"You are a nation builder," Dr. Kohr told Mr. Webster as they sat in the latter's combination store and warehouse, where he sells dry goods, hardware and building supplies.

Dr. Kohr told him that An-

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